

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

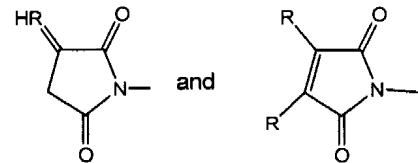
**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of an animal, comprising administering a therapeutic or diagnostic composition comprising particles of a comprising a core which is a water-insoluble water-absorbing non-biodegradable polymer matrix into which is absorbed aqueous liquid, the particles having diameters in the range 40 to 4000 µm and a water-content of at least 30%, characterized in that surfaces of the particles express α-zwitterionic groups, to an animal to form an embolus for therapy or diagnosis, wherein the diameters of the particles, when fully imbibed with water, are in the range 150 µm to 3000 µm,  
wherein the zwitterionic groups are pendant groups on a polymer formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers including a monomer of the general formula I

Y B X              I

in which Y is an ethylenically unsaturated group selected from the group consisting of H<sub>2</sub>C=CR-CO-A-, H<sub>2</sub>C=CR-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-A<sup>1</sup>-, H<sub>2</sub>C=CR-CH<sub>2</sub>A<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>O-CO-CR=CR-CO-O, RCH=CH-CO-O-, RCH=C(COOR<sup>2</sup>)CH<sub>2</sub>-CO-O,



A is -O- or NR<sup>1</sup>:

A<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a bond, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>l</sub>A<sup>2</sup> and (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>l</sub>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in which l is 1 to 12;

A<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -O-, O-CO-, CO-O, CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO, O-CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-O-;

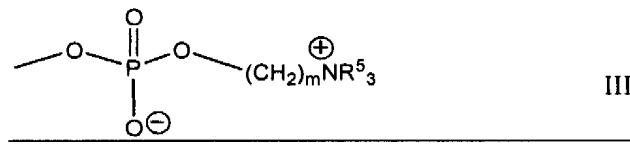
R is hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or BX;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

B is a bond, or a straight branched alkanediyl, alkylene oxaalkylene, or alkylene (oligooxalkylene) group, optionally containing one or more fluorine substituents; and

X is the zwitterionic group having general formula III



where the groups R<sup>5</sup> are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, and m is from 1 to 4.

52. (Cancelled).

53. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 52-51 in which the composition is administered for uterine fibroid embolization, embolization of vessels around tumours or tumour-excision sites, embolization of varicose veins or varicoceles, embolization of arteriovenous malformations or venous malformations, hemostasis of gastro-intestinal bleeds, embolization of fistulas or embolization of fallopian tubes, or seminiferous tubes for sterilization purposes.

54-70. (Cancelled).

71. (Previously Presented) The method of treatment of an animal according to claim 51, wherein the composition is sterile.

72-74. (Cancelled).

75. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment of an animal according to claim 74 51 in which Y is H<sub>2</sub>C=CR-CO-A.

76. (Cancelled).

77. (Previously Presented) The method of treatment of an animal according to claim 51, wherein the particles are substantially spherical.

78. (Cancelled).